The Commercial Appeal, Memphis, Frid

Lane Denies Tie To Jerry Ray's Suit

By OTIS L. SANFORD

...fornia lawyer Mark Lane denied ...day he is representing Jerry Ray in ... suit over a book about Ray's broth... ...mes Earl Ray, and the assassination ...r. Martin Luther King Jr.

"I am not representing him in the libel ... I wish him the very best of luck in ... I have called around to try to find a ...yer for him, but I have no interest or ...nection with that (lawsuit) at all," Lane ...d.

Jerry Ray filed the suit here Aug. 31, ...rging he has been libeled and his con...tutional rights violated by the author ...d publisher of the book "The Making of ... Assassin."

In a letter dated Nov. 3, Jerry Ray in...med the court clerk's office that Lane is ...presenting him in the suit, but Lane, ...reached at his Venice, Calif., law office, ...said, "I have nothing to do with the case. I ...have never filed anything and there is ...nothing there (clerk's office) with my sig... ...on it."

Lane said he had represented Jerry Ray ... for the first 3 days a publication com... ...pany called after his brother's es... ...cape from Brushy Mountain State Prison ... June.

He said, however, he is currently representing James Earl Ray "in everything" and is scheduled to meet with him next week at the prison.

James Earl Ray is serving a 99-year prison term for the April 4, 1968, slaying of King in Memphis.

A spokesman for the court clerk's office said yesterday all motions in the libel suit are being sent to Lane in California "because he is the attorney of record." But Lane said he has not received any papers from the court.

The suit claims the [illegible] the FBI supplied [illegible] to George [illegible] and it also names author named as a defendant.

Also named as defendants are Little, Brown & Co., which published the book; the FBI; William Bradford Huie, who also has written about the King case and allegedly made his research available to McMillan; and W. Henry Haile, a former assistant state attorney general.

The suit seeks $780,000 in damages from each defendant.

Meanwhile, motions by all defendants to dismiss the suit on grounds that it has no legal basis have gone unanswered by [illegible] or his attorney.